



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

September 26, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our strong support for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. Ensuring coverage for the millions of uninsured Americans is a top priority for the AMA. Reauthorizing CHIP is a critical first step in providing coverage for the millions of children without health insurance.

Since its inception, CHIP has helped improve the health and well-being of millions of American children by significantly reducing the number of low-income children without health insurance coverage. Yet, millions of children who are eligible for CHIP are not enrolled. The AMA believes that the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 will ensure continued and expanded coverage for millions of children from low-income families who are eligible for CHIP.

We are especially pleased that this legislation will strengthen outreach and enrollment efforts through the provision of state enrollment incentives, as well as the provision of grants to states, local governments, schools, community organizations, safety-net providers, and others. In addition, we strongly support the bill's provisions regarding premium assistance programs, which will make it easier for CHIP programs and employers to enroll children in employer-provided private coverage by helping families with their premium payments. We also strongly support the funding mechanism in the bill that would increase the federal tax on tobacco products.

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 will be one of the most important votes in the 110th Congress for physicians and their patients, and we urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Maves", written over a thin red horizontal line.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA